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Forty-ninth session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 100 (b)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS,
INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING
THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Letter dated 28 November 1994 from the Permanent Representatives of
Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to enclose the Declaration of the Central American
Ministers for Foreign Affairs concerning the situation of immigrants in the
United States of America, signed at San Salvador on 25 November 1994.

We should be grateful if you would have the Declaration distributed as an
official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 100 (b).

(Signed) Fernando BERROCAL SOTO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Costa Rica

(Signed) Ricardo G. CASTANEDA-CORNEJO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of El Salvador

(Signed) Julio A. MARTINI HERRERA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Guatemala

(Signed) Gerardo MARTINEZ BLANCO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Honduras

(Signed) Erich VILCHEZ ASHER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Nicaragua

(Signed) Jorge E. ILLUECA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Panama



ANNEX

Declaration of the Central American Ministers for Foreign
Affairs concerning the situation of immigrants in the
United States of America, signed at San Salvador on
25 November 1994

The Central American Ministers for Foreign Affairs, having regard to the situation of Central American immigrants in the United States of America, declare:

Their firm conviction that Proposition 187 runs counter to the conclusions of the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights of 1993 and the American Convention on Human Rights inasmuch as they, respectively, establish safeguards for the protection of immigrant workers and their families and recognize that the basic rights of the individual do not arise from the fact of being a national of a particular State but rather are based upon attributes of the human person;

Their profound concern over the approval of Proposition 187, which denies the basic rights of education and health to immigrants living in the State of California, thereby constituting a grave violation of the most basic human rights;

Their hope that Proposition 187 will remain suspended and without effect throughout the State of California because its application sets a precedent contrary to the norms of friendly relations between nations;

Their full confidence that the United States of America will continue to guarantee equal protection before the law for all persons living in that country, within the framework of the constitutional law, human rights and moral values which are part of that nation's traditions;

Their appeal for the American community of nations and civil organizations to continue to protest peacefully against the Proposition and to pursue the available legal remedies for blocking its implementation;

Their support for an extension by the Government of the United States of America of the Deferred Enforced Departure Programme, since ending the Programme would destabilize the Central American region and have adverse economic and social consequences.

DONE at San Salvador, Republic of El Salvador, on 25 November 1994.

(Signed) Fernando NARANJO
Minister of Foreign Affairs and
Religion
Republic of Costa Rica

(Signed) Oscar Alfredo SANTAMARIA
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of El Salvador

(Signed) Ernesto PAZ AGUILAR
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Honduras

(Signed) Ernesto LEAL SANCHEZ
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Nicaragua

(Signed) Carlos RAMIRO MARTINEZ
Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Guatemala

(Signed) Victor CUCALON
Acting Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Panama



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PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE
OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Letter dated 29 November 1994 from the Permanent
Representative of Peru to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that on 9 December 1994 a ceremony organized by the Instituto Indigenista Peruano will be held in my country, in keeping with General Assembly resolution 48/163, of 21 December 1993, and at that event the Minister of Agriculture will officially inaugurate the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People in Peru.

This event provides further proof of the importance attached by the people and Government of Peru to the active participation of indigenous people and rural communities in the harmonious development of the nation and of Peru's clear commitment to the objectives of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

I should be most grateful if you could arrange for this letter to be circulated as a General Assembly document under agenda item 103.

(Signed) Fernando GUILLEN SALAS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Peru
to the United Nations





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ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Letter dated 2 December 1994 from the Permanent Representatives
of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden to the United
Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Governments of the five Nordic countries and in accordance with the procedures referred to in article 26 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, we hereby request a revision of article 20, paragraph 1, of the said Convention.

The proposal for revision of article 20, paragraph 1, is that in article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention the words "normally meet for a period of not more than two weeks annually in order" be deleted and replaced by the following words: "meet annually for a period necessary".

The proposals for how this amendment might be considered are enclosed (see annex).

(Signed) Bent HAAKONSEN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Denmark

(Signed) Gunnar PALSSON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Iceland

(Signed) Fredrik Wilhelm BREITENSTEIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Finland

(Signed) Hans Jacob BIØRN LIAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Norway

(Signed) Peter OSVALD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Sweden

ANNEX

Proposal by the Governments of the Nordic countries for a revision
of article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention on the Elimination
of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The Nordic Governments propose, in accordance with article 26 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, that the States parties to the Convention decide on the procedure for considering the amendment sought to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention, including by stipulating the conditions necessary for the adoption of an amendment and for its entry into force. This decision could be taken on the basis that:

(a) If an amendment is adopted by the majority of States parties present and voting at the meeting, it shall be submitted to the General Assembly for approval, and that, if so adopted, the amendment shall enter into force when it has been approved by the General Assembly and accepted by two thirds of the States parties;

(b) When an amendment enters into force, it shall be binding on those States parties which have accepted it as well as on those States parties which ratify or accede to the Convention as amended after the date of the entry into force of the amendment, other States parties still being bound by the provisions of the Convention.



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CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Venue of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

Note by the Secretariat

1. In its resolution 1993/32 of 27 July 1993, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders should be held early in 1995 for a period of 10 working days and 2 days of pre-Congress consultations. Subsequently, in its resolution 1994/19 of 25 July 1994, the council accepted the invitation of the Government of Tunisia to act as host for the Ninth Congress.
2. In a note verbale dated 1 December 1994 from the Permanent Mission of Tunisia to the United Nations Office at Vienna the Secretariat has been informed that the Government of Tunisia has withdrawn its invitation to act as host for the Ninth Congress in view of the short time available for the necessary preparations.
3. The Council will be called upon at its organizational session for 1995, to be held from 7 to 10 February 1995, to take a decision on the venue of the Congress.





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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND
REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Letter dated 6 December 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit the following comments of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the draft resolution entitled "The situation of human rights in Kosovo" (A/C.3/49/L.58), prepared by Albania in the Third Committee.

The main purpose of the draft resolution is deliberately to misrepresent the situation in the autonomous province of Kosovo and Metohija, which is an integral part of the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia cannot but express its utmost indignation at, and firm opposition to, such activities of Albania, which seriously infringe upon the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Yugoslavia, grossly interfere in its internal affairs and gravely violate the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Pursuant to the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, the Albanian population in Kosovo and Metohija, as a national minority within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, is equal in its rights and duties to all other citizens of the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Under the Constitution, Kosovo and Metohija enjoys the status of autonomous province, with territorial and cultural autonomy. Those aspects of autonomy are granted to the province of Kosovo and Metohija as an entity and not to the Albanian national minority. Therefore, all members of the Albanian national minority are entitled, within this entity, to all minority rights provided for by international legal instruments and principles and by the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, which unreservedly affirms those principles.

The allegation in the draft resolution that the human rights of the Albanian national minority in Kosovo and Metohija are being violated is absolutely untrue. What is at stake is that under the mounting pressure of separatists, instigated and abundantly supported by the neighbouring Republic of Albania, the Albanian national minority has resorted to self-imposed exclusion from public life by boycotting the legitimate State institutions and authorities of the country they live in. That is actually the only reason why they are not exercising the minority rights they are guaranteed. What lies behind the unfounded accusations that in Kosovo and Metohija there are serious human rights problems are illegitimate demands by the extreme elements of the Albanian national minority against the territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia based on plans for secession, with the ultimate aim of the annexation of the province by Albania.

Instead of lamenting over the fate of the Albanian national minority in Kosovo and Metohija, Albania should abandon its policy of instigating separatism and secessionism among the members of the Albanian national minority in the province. Apparently, Albania only verbally declares itself in favour of the ideals of democracy, respect for human rights and freedoms, the rule of law and the maintenance of friendly relations with its neighbours. However, it is widely known that nothing of this kind practically exists in Albania. Instead, political opponents and free-thinking journalists are persecuted and national minority members living in Albania, including Serbs and Montenegrins, have been denied their legitimate rights and subjected to various forms of intimidation. Their fundamental freedoms such as the right to private property and the right to choose freely their place of residence are denied. Staged political trials are frequent. For this reason, the United Nations Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Council of Europe and the European Parliament, adopted resolutions calling for strict respect of human and minority rights in Albania.

The authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia stand ready to engage in an open dialogue with the leaders of political parties of the Albanian national minority in Kosovo and Metohija to find solutions to any outstanding questions within the legal institutions. However, it is necessary that the Albanian national minority, as all other citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, respect its constitution and laws.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been actively promoting friendly relations and cooperation with the countries of the world and has always acted in accordance with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia strongly opposes the attempts by Albania to have the issue of Kosovo and Metohija internationalized, since it certainly constitutes open and flagrant interference in the internal affairs of Yugoslavia.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is confident that the overwhelming majority of the Member States of the United Nations clearly understands what is truly behind this Albanian action, which obviously runs counter to the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

/...

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 100 (c).

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
